

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 20-28 will remain pending in the application. Claims 20-28 will have been amended. Entry of the present amendment, reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the pending application in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

As an initial matter, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for considering all of the documents cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on June 15, 2004. Applicants would also like to thank the Examiner for the telephone interview held with Applicants' representative on May 5, 2005. However, Applicants would like to clarify the record with respect to the interview. In the Interview Summary mailed May 9, 2005, the Examiner stated that "applicant will review all claims and amend them to clarify the claim invention." Applicants would like the record to show that the Primary Examiner, who participated in the interview, noted concerns about the claims being unclear and recommended amending the claims to address those concerns. However, Applicants note that the Final Office Action did not make of record any such concerns, as it did not include any rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph or any objections to the claims.

As the present amendment merely addresses concerns expressed by the Examiner after issuance of the Final Office Action, as a result of the issuance of the above-noted concerns Applicants respectfully submit that it would be improper to deny entry of the present amendment.

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In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 20-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Klein et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,872,850). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for at least the following reasons.

The present invention is directed towards an information distribution system. The information distribution system of the present invention includes a storage section that stores a personal profile that includes at least one evaluation value of a keyword contained in distribution information provided from a first information distribution provider. The evaluation value(s) are calculated based upon a user's past selection of distribution information containing the keyword. The information distribution system also includes a first information filter that rates the distribution information from the first information distribution provider, and performs a learning process that changes the at least one evaluation value of the keyword. The information distribution system further includes a second information filter that rates distribution information from a second information provider, but does not perform a learning process based on the distribution information from the second information distribution provider.

Klein relates to a system for enabling an information marketplace. Klein discloses that, in the system, a plurality of user profiles are stored in a memory element. See, for example, col. 3, line 51. Each user profile associates items with the ratings given to those items by the user. See, for example, col. 4, lines 7-8. Ratings can be inferred by the system from the user's usage pattern. For example, the system may monitor how long the user views a particular Web page and store in that user's

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profile an indication that the user likes the page. See, for example, col. 5, lines 13-18.

However, Applicants submit that rating an item, such as a Web page, is not the same as calculating an evaluation value of a keyword contained in distribution information. The present invention calculates an evaluation value of a keyword, such as "baseball" (see e.g., lines 19-26 on page 12 of the specification), contained in distribution information, such as newspaper information, and uses the evaluation value to evaluate distribution information based on whether it contains this or other keywords. By contrast, Klein merely rates specific articles, not keywords contained in the articles.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Klein fails to disclose an information distribution system that includes a storage section that stores a personal profile that includes at least one evaluation value of a keyword contained in distribution information, where the at least one evaluation value is calculated based upon a user's past selection of distribution information containing the keyword, as recited in claims 20, 25 and 26 of the present amendment.

Further, the Examiner has not clearly articulated, either in the Final Office Action or the interview, how Klein's invention discloses the combination of a first information filter that rates the distribution information from the first information distribution provider based on the evaluation value and performs a learning process that changes the evaluation value, and a second information filter that rates distribution information from a second information distribution provider based on the evaluation value but does not perform a learning process that changes the evaluation value, as recited in claim 25.

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Applicants respectfully submit that Klein fails to disclose this combination of features, and if the Examiner chooses to maintain the rejection, Applicants respectfully request that she clearly point out how these features are disclosed.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 20, 25 and 26 is improper, and respectfully request withdrawal thereof.

Dependent claims 21-24, 27 and 28 are also submitted to be in condition for allowance for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 20, 25 and 26.

Applicants recognize that the present state of the application is after-Final. However, Applicants submit that entry of the present amendment is proper in the current circumstances, as the amendment does not present new issues requiring further consideration and/or search, and places the application in condition for allowance.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and entry of the present amendment and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

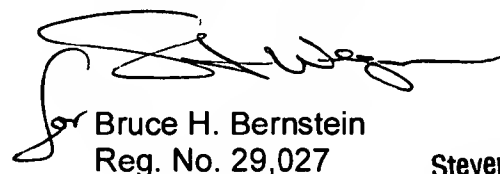
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Entry and consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate. Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present invention in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Toshiki KINDO et al.


Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

Steven Wegman
Reg. No. 31,438

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191